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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 JUNE 1949

SUBJECT Soviet CB Notes: Wittenberg, Torgau,
Belgern, Zeithain, Nietleben

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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25X1X 1. Wittenberg (E37), April 1949

3. Rifle, engineer and tank troops formerly stationed in barracks near the Elbe River bridge (direction Platau) have moved into the Flak Kaserne and the Beseler Kaserne. They were replaced at the bridgehead site by approximately 1,000 air force troops, half of whom appear to be recruits. Several EM and some officers wearing parachute or airborne insignia were observed. According to a Soviet NCO, these SAF troops arrived in early April, their arrival coinciding with that of airborne troops in Erfurt.*

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b. The former Arado Werk in the southeastern part of the city (located partly on the Dresdenerstrasse) is used as a fuel depot and is guarded by tank troops from the Flak Kaserne. A Derunaptha employee reports that the dump contains 1 1/2 million liters of gasoline and 250,000 liters of oil as well as unknown amounts of 76.2, 107 and 152 mm ammunition.

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c. Source continues his original claim that Wittenberg is the headquarters of a tank corps and adds to his possible evidence the presence of a tank corps band among the troops in the Bageler Kaserne.

25X1X 2. Torgau (E64). [REDACTED] April

The Targau prison is now a Soviet Army jail guarded by 300 MVD troops. A new barracks opposite the prison is occupied by 1,000-1,200 German Volkspolizei.

25X1X 3. Belgern (E73), [REDACTED] April

A barracks camp in the woods near Belgern is occupied by 200 tank troops. According to a local policeman, these troops are to join in maneuvers with German police units from Torgau in the Belgern-Taura area (E75-63). Source observed a cavalry unit of 500 men, equipped with SMGs and automatic rifles, training near Taura.

25X1X 4. Zeithain (E81), [REDACTED] April

a. Observed taking part in training exercises: sixty-four JS-1, twenty-eight JS-2, and seven JS-3 tanks.

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b. A German worker claims that the Zeithain munitions plant contains large stocks of tank ammunition and aircraft bombs, the latter being supplied to SAF units at Alt Lönnewitz (E94) and Jüterbog (E59).

25X1X 5. Nietleben (D82), [REDACTED] April

Although some tanks have been shipped out and troops are expected to leave for summer maneuvers, there has been no decrease in strength at the Nietleben barracks, which are still occupied by 8,000-10,000 men. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Comments

* Reference airborne troops were reported by the same source as having arrived at Bindersleben airfield (J26) on 30-31 March. [REDACTED]

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** Taking source's previous word for it, Nietleben would seem to have had a strength increase. He last reported 3,000 armored troops there during the period 7-12 March 1949. [REDACTED]

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